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Personality In The News:

CIA Chief Has No-Nonsense Attitude

By WILBUR MARTIN
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WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson Sunday tabbed a stocky, red - haired retired vice admiral to be head of the nation's super secret Central Intelligence Agency.

And in the word's of a former, fellow admiral, "the President got quite a guy" in 59 - year - old William F. Raborn Jr., Texas born, Oklahoma reared; at home in a Navy fighter plane cockpit, on the quarterdeck, or in the laboratories where he bossed the development of the nuclear Polaris missile system.

"Red's the kind of guy who won't be distracted by non - essential detail," said an ex-shipmate, a retired four star admiral.

"He's a guy who drives himself and who's one of those lucky fellows who commands respect and makes you want to do your best."

Shipmates know "Red" Raborn as a man with a merry sense of humor, a no-nonsense attitude about any job to be done and who just won't admit there's any such phrase as "can't be done." His rows of medals attest to that.

Born in Decatur, Tex., on June 8, 1905, Raborn grew up in Ryan and Marlow, Okla., and was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1928.

"Some folks wonder how I ever picked the Navy when I didn't know there was that much water in the world," Raborn once quipped on a visit back to his boyhood state, where he joked about dust and drouth when he was growing up.

Raborn switched from surface ships to flying and won his wings as a naval aviator in 1934. During World War II, he commanded the Navy Aviation Gunnery School on Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and then served as executive officer of the USS Hancock in the war's final punch against Japan.

WILLIAM F. RABORN

After commanding a task force, and serving in naval headquarters in Washington on various tours, Raborn took command of the USS Bennington. In a series of explosions that rocked the ship off Newport on May 26, 1954, 220 men died. An official commendation credited him with "saving many lives."

Tabbed to head the Navy's Special Project Office, Raborn was given the task of developing the Polaris as a missile capable of being launched from a submarine while submerged.

His research command is credited with many scientific break-throughs in achieving its goal, including a new navigation system to be used by the missile launching subs, and the launcher itself.

"Red's got tremendous managerial ability," said a former shipmate.

"He can really cut through the fog."

Raborn served as deputy chief of Naval Operations before retiring and becoming a vice president with Aerojet General Corp., in Pasadena, Calif.

President Johnson, in appointing Raborn to succeed John A. McCone as chief of the CIA, described him as a friend of 15 years.

Raborn was close - mouthed with newsmen who questioned him before the appointment as whether he was in line for the job.

"I never heard anything like that," he told one reporter.

As head of the CIA, Raborn will boss a huge complex about which relatively little is publicly known. What is known is that it includes a far-flung network of intelligence and has as a prime mission the task of making sure the President is fully informed on every facet in which the nation is involved or interested.

To old shipmates who heard of the appointment, it wasn't surprising Raborn didn't quibble about accepting.

"He's the kind of guy who, if the President asked him to take on any job, would say 'aye, aye, sir' and that would be that," said one.

Raborn has been living in California. He is married and has two children, Barbara Priscilla and William F. Raborn 3rd.

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